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STORAGE

Bulletin No. 120

1921

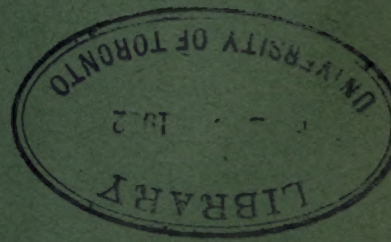
Imperial
Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa

The Serum Simultaneous Method of Inoculation against Rinderpest

BY

W. A. POOL, M.R.C.V.S.

*Offg. Director and First Bacteriologist,
Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory, Muktesar*



CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
1921

Price As. 2.

Edited by

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Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa

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The Serum Simultaneous Method of Inoculation against Rinderpest.

[Received for publication on 14th December 1920.]

THESE instructions are designed to meet the needs of a large dairy in India consisting largely of imported stock. They will serve as a type and can be modified to suit other herds by the inoculating officer.

They are based on the work carried out in the Muktesar laboratory during recent years. Until further experience is gained it would be unsafe to modify them. Further work on this subject is in progress.

1. TECHNIQUE OF THE INOCULATION.

(a) *Immunising the animals.*

Serum is injected subcutaneously over one shoulder, and virulent rinderpest blood taken from a virus producer at the height of the disease is injected at the same time subcutaneously over the other shoulder.

On the 7th or 8th day, a second dose of 5 c. c. of virulent blood (without any more serum) is inoculated into any animals which do not show a rinderpest reaction from the first inoculation.

This second dose is given in the inoculations carried out under the direction of this Laboratory but is not always given in other countries where this method of inoculation is employed for the eradication of rinderpest.

(b) *Method of providing the virulent blood.*

This must be obtained from the branch laboratory at Bareilly, sealed in pipettes or in bulk and packed in a vacuum flask in a freezing mixture or in an ice chest in ice.

(i) *By inoculating virus producers.* This method is necessary when the virulent blood cannot be used before it is 48 hours old. If it is more than 48 hours old there is a danger that it may have lost its virulence.

The inoculation of avirulent blood would establish a sense of false security. The inoculation of virus producers on the spot ensures efficient inoculation.

Susceptible male calves, 6—9 months old or at the outside 1½ years old, should be provided to act as virus producers, and they should be inoculated with 5 c. c. of virulent blood so that they may contract rinder-

pest. These calves must be of as susceptible a breed to rinderpest as possible. Imported European stock and Himalayan hill cattle are the most susceptible. Half-bred European stock are very susceptible and $\frac{1}{4}$ -bred stock are fairly susceptible.

Of the other indigenous breeds shown in the table of doses of serum in section 2, experience obtained in the inoculation of the cattle of Government military dairies shows that Scindi cattle are the most susceptible and Hariana cattle the least, the Sahniwal cattle occupying an intermediate position.

Appendix A gives a suggested model time table for use when virus producers have to be inoculated.

(ii) *By inoculating virulent blood obtained in bulk.* If the virulent blood can be obtained in bulk, kept cool *en route* and used within 48 hours of being drawn from the infected animal, a great saving in time and labour is effected.

Appendix B gives a suggested model time table for use when the blood can be obtained in bulk.

2. DOSE OF SERUM.

Class of animal	Dose of serum in cubic centimeters per 600 lb. body weight.
Ayreshire cattle	250—300
Holstein cattle	250—300
$\frac{7}{8}$ pure bred cattle	220—240
$\frac{3}{4}$ pure bred cattle	175—200
$\frac{1}{2}$ pure bred cattle	125—150
$\frac{1}{4}$ pure bred cattle	100—125
$\frac{1}{8}$ pure bred cattle	80—100
Country breeds.	
Scindi breed	60
Sahniwal breed	40
Hariana breed	30
Buffaloes.	
Delhi	60

The doses for other country bred animals are not known, and an estimate of their susceptibility must be obtained locally from Veterinary Advisers or Superintendents, Civil Veterinary Department.

3. DOSE OF VIRULENT BLOOD PER ANIMAL OF ANY WEIGHT.

Pure breeds and cross breeds	$\frac{1}{2}$ c.c.
Country breeds	1 c.c.

4. ANIMALS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE INOCULATED.

Calves under 9 months old, cows more than 3 months in calf, cows in milk and any weak or sick animal should not be inoculated by this method. Imported stock should never be inoculated until acclimatized.

5. CARE OF THE ANIMALS BEING IMMUNISED.

The inoculation of an animal with rinderpest may be a severe strain on its health if any complication occurs even though serum protection is given.

While being immunised, the animals should be protected from any severe climatic conditions and the general animal mastership should be faultless.

A convenient proportion (say 10 per cent.) representative of each class of the inoculated animals should be selected haphazard. These animals should be kept under accurate observation to give a general idea of the reactions obtained. A full temperature chart should be maintained for each animal of this batch.

The temperatures of the remainder of the animals should be taken, and they should be carefully watched for three weeks from the date of the first inoculation. Any showing severe symptoms should be added to those under accurate observation. Severe symptoms should be treated as they occur, though usually interference is unnecessary except when piroplasmosis arises as a complication.

6. MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INOCULATION OF PIROPLASMOSIS, WITH THE VIRULENT BLOOD.

A temperature chart for each virus producer must be maintained, and blood smears from each animal must be carefully examined daily from the time when the temperature reaction begins until the blood is used.

Blood from an animal known to be affected with piroplasmosis must not be used. This method of diagnosis, which admits of blood examinations for 2 or 3 days only, will not of course prove definitely that an animal is not infected with piroplasmosis but it is as much as is practicable in field conditions.

7. PIROPLASMOSIS IN THE ANIMALS INOCULATED BY THE SERUM SIMULTANEOUS METHOD.

Experience has shown that some animals suffer from piroplasmosis as a complication of the rinderpest reaction. When due precautions are taken, this is usually due to a relapse from a previous infection on the part of the animal inoculated.

Blood smears should be examined from any showing a high temperature.

Any animal showing piroplasmosis should be given an intravenous injection of 20 c.c. of a saturated (about 3 per cent.) solution of Trypan blue in 0·8 per cent. saline per 100 lb. body weight. The maximum dose for big animals should not exceed 250 c.c. The solution should be freshly prepared, filtered and be injected at blood heat.

8. DANGER OF INFECTING HEALTHY ANIMALS WITH RINDERPEST THAT ARE NOT BEING IMMUNISED.

If adequate control is not exercised, the virus is always a source of danger to healthy animals. Therefore the locality chosen must be such that there is no danger of infecting animals in the vicinity that are not going to be inoculated such as the cows in calf beyond three months or in milk or village cattle.

The animals to be inoculated must not be placed in danger of infection until the actual day of inoculation.

The animals inoculated by the serum simultaneous method are infective and must not be allowed to mix with healthy ones for 3 weeks after the last animal of the batch has ceased to show symptoms of the reaction or a minimum of 5 weeks after the last batch was immunised.

The virulent blood obtained in the first instance, whether sent in pipettes in a vacuum flask or in bottles in an ice chest, must be very carefully guarded that there may be no chance of spreading infection when *en route* to the scene of inoculation.

When possible, a capable messenger should always be sent with suitable receptacles to bring the virulent blood. When this is impossible and it is necessary to send it by post, a hermetically sealed container must always be used.

9. DURATION OF THE IMMUNITY CONFERRED.

Experience of this method of inoculation has shown that the immunity conferred is durable.

10. SAFETY OF THIS METHOD OF INOCULATION IN INDIA.

In the course of over 5,000 inoculations of animals carried out under the direction of this laboratory in all parts of India, including all classes of animals as shown in the table of doses in section 2, the total mortality has been under 0·8 per cent. Many of the deaths which produced this mortality figure were from causes other than rinderpest, and in ordinary circumstances should not have occurred as a result of the inoculation.

Conditions from one cause or another have not always been ideal so the test of the method may be regarded as a severe one.

The inoculations have all been carried out on the plains during the cold weather. This laboratory has no experience of any inoculations carried out during the hot weather.

11. LITERATURE.

The following literature bears on this subject and should be consulted:—

- (i) The Annual Reports of the Muktesar Laboratory for the years 1916-17, 1917-18, 1918-19 and 1919-20.
- (ii) "The Vitality of the Rinderpest Virus outside the Animal Body under Natural Conditions" by the late A. W. Shilston, M.R.C.V.S., Second Bacteriologist, Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory, Muktesar. Memoirs of the Department of Agriculture in India, Veterinary Series, Vol. III, No. 1.

Appendix A.

Suggested model time table for inoculating a herd when virus producers have to be inoculated.

Days	
1	Inoculate two virus producers (virus producers 1 and 2) with virulent blood.
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	Virus producers react. Bleed. Defibrinate and if necessary store in cold container. Inoculate first batch of animals by the serum simultaneous method (Batch A).
7	Inoculate second batch of animals by the serum simultaneous method (Batch B). (If necessary draw fresh virulent blood.)
8	Inoculate third batch of animals by the serum simultaneous method (Batch C). (If necessary draw fresh virulent blood.) Inoculate virus producers 3 and 4 from virus producers 1 and 2.
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	Virus producers 3 and 4 react. Inoculate Batch A, when necessary, with 5 c.c. of virulent blood from virus producer 3 or 4.
14	Inoculate Batch B, when necessary, with virulent blood from virus producers 3 and 4.
15	Inoculate Batch C, when necessary, with virulent blood from virus producer 3 or 4.
16	} Observe and treat as necessary.
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
etc.	

NOTE. If the virus producers are of a breed which is not very susceptible a larger number should be inoculated as in this case a reaction is not always obtained.

Appendix B.

Suggested model time table for inoculating a herd when the virulent rinderpest blood can be obtained in bulk.

Days

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Virulent blood arrives. Inoculate the first batch of animals by the serum simultaneous method (Batch A). |
| 2 | Virulent blood arrives. Inoculate the second batch of animals by the serum simultaneous method (Batch B). |
| 3 | Virulent blood arrives. Inoculate the third batch of animals by the serum simultaneous method (Batch C). |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | Virulent blood arrives. Inoculate the animals of Batch A, when necessary, with 5 c.c. |
| 9 | Virulent blood arrives. Inoculate the animals of Batch B, when necessary, with 5 c.c. |
| 10 | Virulent blood arrives. Inoculate the animals of Batch C, when necessary, with 5 c.c. |
| 11 | } Observe and treat as necessary. |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | |
| 15 | |
| 16 | |
| 17 | |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |

In this time table it is assumed that the virulent blood is 48 hours old by the time it is inoculated.

If it could be obtained more expeditiously, the programme could be modified accordingly as regards arrangements for fresh supplies.

From the above it will be seen that usually it would only be convenient to obtain the virulent blood in bulk when all the animals could be inoculated in one day or the blood could be obtained quickly.

If this cannot be done it would be more convenient and economical to inoculate virus producers on the spot, as otherwise messengers and containers in sufficient number would have to be provided for the conveyance of the blood.

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